AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently amended) A multiwell plate for transfecting a eukaryotic cell with a biomolecule wherein the bottom of at least some of the wells ~~are~~ is at least partially ~~coated~~ affixed with a composition comprising a transfection agent comprising a metal salt which is not pre-mixed with the biomolecule.

2. (Original) The multiwell plate of claim 1, wherein the metal salt is a calcium salt.

3. (Original) The multiwell plate of claim 2, wherein the calcium salt is selected from the group consisting of calcium chloride and calcium acetate.

4. (Currently amended) The multiwell plate of claim 1, wherein the composition further comprises a matrix ~~complex~~.

5. (Original) The multiwell plate of claim 1, wherein the composition is retained on the multiwell plate.

6. (Cancelled)

7. (Currently amended) The multiwell plate of claim ~~6~~4, wherein the matrix ~~complex~~ is selected from the group consisting of proteins, glycoproteins, peptides, polysaccharides, and polymers or combinations thereof.

8. (Original) The multiwell plate of claim 7, wherein said protein is selected from the group consisting of gelatin, collagen, laminin, fibronectin, and bovine serum albumin or a combination thereof.

9. (Original) The multiwell plate of claim 7, wherein said polymer is selected from the group consisting of hydrogels, biodegradable polymers, and biocompatible materials.

10. (Currently amended) A cell culture/transfection device for transfecting a eukaryotic cell, ~~comprising~~ consisting essentially of a solid surface, wherein the solid surface is coated with calcium chloride in a gel matrix, wherein the concentration of the calcium chloride in the gel matrix is 10-40 mM.

11. (Previously presented) The cell culture/transfection device of claim 10, wherein the surface is selected from the group consisting of flasks, dishes, tubes, multi-well plates, slides, and implanted devices.

12. (Original) The cell culture/transfection device of claim 10, wherein the solid surface is glass, polystyrene or epoxy resin.

13. (Original) The cell culture/transfection device of claim 10, wherein the solid surface is selected from the group consisting of a slide and a multi-well plate.

14. (Cancelled)

15. (Cancelled)

16. (Cancelled)

17. (Cancelled)

18. (Cancelled)

19. (Cancelled)

20. (Cancelled)

21. (Cancelled)

22. (Cancelled)

23. (Cancelled)

24. (Cancelled)

25. (Cancelled)

26. (Cancelled)

27. (Withdrawn) A method for transfection of eukaryotic cells comprising:

providing a solid surface according to Claim 10;

adding at least one nucleic acid or at least one polypeptide to be introduced into the eukaryotic cell onto the solid surface; and

seeding eukaryotic cells onto the solid surface at a sufficient density and under appropriate conditions for introduction of the nucleic acids or polypeptides into the eukaryotic cells.

28. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 27, wherein the surface is selected from the group consisting of flasks, dishes, tubes, continuous surface, multi-well plates, slides, and implanted devices.

29. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 27, wherein the solid surface is glass, polystyrene or epoxy resin.

30. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 27, wherein the metal salt is a calcium salt.

31. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 30, wherein the calcium salt is selected from the group consisting of calcium chloride and calcium acetate.

32. (Currently amended) The method of claim 27, wherein the composition further comprises a matrix ~~complex~~.

33. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 27, wherein the composition is retained on the solid surface.

34. (Cancelled)

35. (Currently amended) The method of claim ~~34~~32, wherein the matrix ~~complex~~ is selected from the group consisting of proteins, glycoproteins, peptides, polysaccharides, and polymers or combinations thereof.

36. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 35, wherein said protein is selected from the group consisting of gelatin, collagen, laminin, fibronectin, and bovine serum albumin or a combination thereof.

37. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 35, wherein said polymer is selected from the group consisting of hydrogels, biodegradable polymers, and biocompatible materials.

38. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 27, wherein the solid surface is selected from the group consisting of a slide and a multi-well plate.

39. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 27, wherein the eukaryotic cells are mammalian cells.

40. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 27, wherein the eukaryotic cells are dividing cells or non-dividing cells.

41. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 27, wherein the eukaryotic cells are transformed cells or primary cells.

42. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 27, wherein the eukaryotic cells are somatic or stem cells.

43. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 27, wherein the eukaryotic cell is a plant cell.

44. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 27, wherein the eukaryotic cell is an insect cell.

45. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 27, wherein the at least one nucleic acid is selected from the group consisting of DNA, RNA, DNA/RNA hybrid and chemically modified nucleic acids.

46. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 45, wherein the chemically modified nucleic acid comprises a peptide nucleic acid.

47. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 45, wherein the DNA is circular, linear, or single strand oligonucleotide.

48. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 45, wherein the RNA is single stranded or double stranded.

49. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 48, wherein the single-stranded RNA is a ribozyme.

50. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 48, wherein the double-stranded RNA is siRNA.

51. (Withdrawn) A method of determining whether a biomolecule can enter a cell comprising:

(a) providing a multiwell plate according to Claim 1 to which said biomolecule can interact;

(b) adding the biomolecules to the multiwell plate such that the biomolecules interact with the metal salt;

(c) seeding cells onto the multiwell plate with sufficient density and under appropriate conditions for introduction of the biomolecules into the cells; and

(d) detecting whether the biomolecule has been delivered to the cells.

52. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 51, wherein the biomolecules are selected from the group consisting of nucleic acids, proteins, peptides, sugars, polysaccharides, and organic compounds.

53. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 52, wherein the nucleic acids are selected from the group consisting of DNA, RNA, DNA/RNA hybrid and chemically modified nucleic acids.

54. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 53, wherein the chemically modified nucleic acid comprises a peptide nucleic acid.

55. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 53, wherein the DNA is circular, linear, or single strand oligonucleotide.

56. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 53, wherein the RNA is single stranded or double stranded.

57. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 56, wherein the single-stranded RNA is a ribozyme.

58. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 56, wherein the double-stranded RNA is siRNA.

59. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 51, wherein the cells are mammalian cells.

60. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 51, wherein the cells are dividing cells or non-dividing cells.

61. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 51, wherein the cells are transformed cells or primary cells.

62. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 51, wherein the cells are somatic or stem cells.

63. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 51, wherein the cell is a plant cell.

64. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 51, wherein the cell is an insect cell.

SUMMARY OF INTERVIEW

Exhibits and/or Demonstrations

none

Identification of Claims Discussed

All claims, but specifically, claims 1 and 10.

Identification of Prior Art Discussed

Webb, et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,670,129)

Ausubel, et al. (Current Protocols in Molecular Biology, 1988)

Proposed Amendments

Applicants representatives proposed amendment of claim 1 to recite "consisting essentially of." The Examiner proposed an alternative amendment to claim 1 to clarify that the metal salt on the multiwell plate was not bound to a biomolecule.

Principal Arguments and Other Matters

Proposed claim amendments were presented and discussed to overcome art and rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph. Support for the previous amendment of claim 10 to recite that the "concentration of the calcium chloride in the gel matrix is 10-40 mM" was discussed.

Results of Interview

It was agreed that the next response would include amendments to claim 1 to clarify that the coating does not include the biomolecule, and to better define the term "coated" and that the role of the metal salt as a transfection agent would be clarified. Also claim 10 would be amended to recite "consisting essentially of" instead of "comprising." In response to the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a), Applicants will explain that the biomolecule is added at a later time.